

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) Government's assessment of the threat perceptions arising therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government monitors carefully the development and deployment of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery in the region and beyond. Government is fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.

Smuggling of Terrorists by Pakistani Military

2931. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated 29th January, 2001, quoting the 'Times Magazine' to the effect that Pakistani military is deeply involved in smuggling of terrorists across the Line of Control into Kashmir and that out of the five main militant groups operating in Kashmir, four were based in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto, in the light of Pak-Military regime's offer for talks, and to bring home such facts to all the big powers including China and the USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Government have been appropriately bringing to the attention of the international community, including USA and China, facts pertaining to Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India. The international community now openly acknowledges Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism. This open acknowledgment is being reflected in the media coverage on Pakistan. The article published in the international news magazine "Times", and referred to in the Indian Express issue of 29 January 2001, is another example of the type of media coverage Pakistan has been receiving.

Government are aware that Pakistan has been making propagandist calls for the resumption of dialogue while at the same time stepping up its sponsorship of cross border terrorism and violence in India. India's position remains consistent and principled. India desires the establishment of a relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. Towards this end Government are committed to resuming the Composite Dialogue initiated by India in 1998. Pakistan must end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism, in order to create an appropriate environment, which is an obvious requirement for the resumption of a meaningful dialogue. Government are also firm in their resolve to take all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism and protect security and territorial integrity of the country.

Grants to Haj Committee

2932. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Haj Committee receives any grants for its maintenance;

(b) if so, the annual amount thereof;

(c) what are the different heads of the income of the Central Haj Committee and the details of the income received under each head during the last three years;

(d) whether the Haj House in Mumbai is the property of the Haj Committee; and

(e) if so, what is the annual income from the Haj House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Haj Committee receives income from:-

(i) Pilgrim Pass Registration Fees; and

(ii) Haj House Donation.